



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 103^d CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 140

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1994

No. 143

House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, that Your word to us is a word that challenges and corrects, that gives solace and comfort in every need. We are grateful too for the words of our colleagues and friends, words that educate and encourage, that brighten and give light to each day. Remind us always, to use our words in ways that reflect the truth, that edify and point the way, that contribute to the common good and to the unity that we should express. May Your good word, O God, be with us this day and every day. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

GATT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the GATT bill is up. Hulk Hogan cannot lift it. Albert Einstein could not under-

stand it. And the American workers fear it. Is it any wonder under NAFTA jobs go to Mexico? Under GATT jobs will go everywhere except America. I do not blame workers.

I will say one thing, I think the Democrat party today is pushing the working people of America away, real far away. But let us tell us like it is.

If GATT is so good for America, why does China love it? If GATT is so good for America, why does Japan love it? If GATT is so good for America, tell me, colleagues, why do the American workers vehemently hate this bill? This is a Woody Allen answer to a John Wayne problem.

I say today that the Democrat party is starting to set in motion a change for the common working man to move toward the Republican side of the aisle. John Lewis, roll over in your grave.

OBSTRUCTION OF LEGISLATION

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, the majority leader in the other body has embarked on an ornery tirade against Republicans. He hopes to label all Republicans as obstructionist.

But on issue after issue important to the American people, the Democratic majority has obstructed passage of legislation. Here are a few of the bills the Democrats have obstructed:

The line-item veto; an A-to-Z spending cut session; welfare reform; balanced budget amendment; legal reforms; a middle-class tax cut; regulatory reform; immigration reform; Whitewater hearings; and term limits.

And of course, the Democrats have obstructed reform of Congress. They have obstructed efforts to cut committees and staff and they are trying to obstruct legislation to make Congress

comply with the laws they impose on others.

Mr. Speaker, let us put an end to Democratic obstructionism by electing a Republican majority for the first time in 40 years.

REPUBLICANS CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET WITHOUT TOUCHING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, in the 2 years of a Democrat-controlled Congress and a Democrat-controlled White House, we Republicans have submitted two detailed budget proposals. Neither Republican budget touched Social Security.

In fact, the Democrats raised Social Security taxes on middle-income seniors in the 1993 tax bill. Moreover, even as the Democrats were ringing a false alarm about the Contract being a threat to cut Social Security benefits, the Democrat controls Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security was hearing presentations about four different Democrat plans to cut Social Security benefits.

The Social Security trust fund—which is currently running a \$58-billion surplus—represents a pact between American taxpayers and the Federal Government. Republicans are committed to preserving this pact with the Nation's now and future senior citizens.

DEMOCRATS FEAR THE SUCCESS OF OUR CONTRACT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican contract with America will

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H10849

change the way business has been done in the House for the past 40 years.

Here is the bottom line: Republicans favor congressional votes on the balanced budget amendment, line-item veto, welfare reform, family tax cuts that are paid for with spending cuts, and term limits. Democrats oppose these provisions.

Our contract guarantees that every penny in cost will be offset with spending cuts. Democrats want to keep spending freely even if it means racking up huge Federal deficits. They have surrendered to deficit spending and now admit they cannot envision a Federal Government the balances its budget.

The American people can now easily see how a Republican-controlled House would be different from the past 40 years of Democrat control. And that is what frightens the Democrats. As the Wall Street Journal put it: "It's hard to avoid the impression that the critics fear not that the contract would fail but that it would succeed."

THE TAKING BACK OUR STREETS ACT

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, crime is a huge problem in the American society today. When asked to name the most important problem facing our country, 22 percent, a plurality, point to crime, gangs, and the justice system. One out of five say that is what the trouble is. It is not surprising that 85 percent of the American people favor lifetime jail sentences with no chance of parole for anyone convicted of three or more violent crimes. Three or more violent crimes, and we are going to let them out?

The contract with America goes several steps further with the Taking Back Our Streets Act. Clinton's crime bill is riddled with new social programs which greatly contribute to the \$30 billion price tag, but we know that coddling young criminals does not solve the crime problem.

We propose truth-in-sentencing and real prisons. This means when a criminal goes to prison he will not be allowed to leave after he has only served a third of his sentence. The place he will be incarcerated is not going to be the Club Med for convicts.

Rather than make it more difficult for our law-abiding citizens to purchase a handgun, let us talk about taking back our streets by putting a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence for the use of a gun during a State or Federal felony. That is the way to get tough on crime. That is what we need now. The Republicans know the answer.

URGING HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO RECONSIDER SCHEDULING ON GATT LEGISLATION

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the leadership should reconsider its plan to schedule a vote on legislation to implement the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, or GATT.

There is much confusion and concern over the provisions of this complex agreement that will have a massive effect on the economic health of our Nation.

Most Americans support the principle of free trade, but when you read the details of this agreement it is far from clear that Americans will be on a level playing field with foreign competition.

Numerous studies raise serious questions concerning jobs and incomes that will be lost, particularly in the agriculture, textiles and apparel industries.

These questions need to be answered. Instead of rushing this legislation through the closing days of this Congress, the administration should take a lesson from the fate of the health care reform effort.

We should go slow and get it right.

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO FRIGHTEN ELDERLY REGARDING GOP CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the politics of fear, intimidation, and deception continue, with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continuing to scare elderly people into believing that somehow the Republican contract with America would cut Social Security, or otherwise impair the elderly. It is absolutely not true. Not only is it not true, but in fact, we have already done that in this Congress. We did it with the 1993 budget deal.

If we look at it, we have cuts in Social Security and Medicare from the 1993 Clinton budget. In 1994 we had cuts in Social Security of \$1.93 billion; in 1995, \$4.597 billion; in 1996, \$5 billion; in 1997, \$6 billion; in 1998, \$6.7 billion; a total of \$24.5 billion in Social Security cuts; Medicare, a total of \$56 billion.

Let me repeat that. This is the Clinton budget of 1993. Not one single Republican member of this Congress voted for that budget. It was passed by Democrats.

DEMOCRATS FUMBLE, REPUBLICANS GO ON OFFENSE ON CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, last week, several on the other side tried to make football analogies regarding the contract with America. Not surprisingly these comparisons were a few yards short of a first down.

For the past 40 years, the Democrats have had the ball, they have controlled the clock, they have rammed their liberal agenda through the line despite the crowd of Americans roaring against them.

The Democrats are nervous now. After a series of Democrat fumbles and penalties, the Republicans are going on the offense.

But today, we are merely drawing up our game plan: The Republicans' contract with America. Our strategy includes applying the rules of the game to Congress, a very popular move among the crowd of Americans whose pleas have gone unanswered for too long.

When we finally get our hands on the ball, we will be ready. All those Republicans who have been forced by the Democrats to sit on the bench will finally get in the game.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR CONTRACT

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a social crisis.

Illegitimacy rates are exploding. Crime rates are rising. Our cities are decaying, and millions of Americans are trapped in poverty.

Last week, more than 300 Republicans signed a historic agreement to reverse these trends. The Personal Responsibility Act is a key element of our contract with America.

Drawing upon the lessons of the last 30 years, we have pledged to reform a welfare system that deprives individuals from obtaining the American dream.

Real welfare reform means spending less and moving dependents off the dole. Our plan will instill responsibility by requiring work for benefits. We will strengthen the family by eliminating subsidies for out-of-wedlock births. And we will provide the American taxpayer with relief by cutting runaway welfare spending.

Mr. Speaker, the American people realize that we can no longer punish what is right in America to subsidize what is wrong with America.

The Republican contract with America provides real and effective welfare reform, and I am confident that on November 8, the American people will voice their support for the principles of this pact.